



13 Keys

These keys to the City of Jerusalem were handed over to two soldiers of the 2nd/20th London Regiment who were foraging for water on 9th December 1917. The city leaders mistook them for an official delegation of the Army.



The 20th (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment and The Kent Cyclist Battalion

Although part of the London Regiment, this territorial battalion from Blackheath and Woolwich, has always had close links with Kent. They were formed in 1908 when the 2nd & 3rd Volunteer Battalions of the West Kent Regiment were amalgamated.



The Golden Eagle, a Dunkirk paddle steamer, manned by 34 AA Regiment RE, formerly 20th London.

They raised three battalions during the First World War. The 1/20th and the 2/20th served with distinction in France, Belgium, Salonika, Egypt and Palestine.

The 20th came to an end in 1935 when they were redesignated into a Royal Engineer Searchlight Regiment. However the association with Kent did not end there as they retained the distinctive Kentish cap badge.



Non commissioned officers of A Company 20th London Regiment at Hatfield Camp, September 1914.



A Cyclist Battalion on Parade complete with cycles.

Also formed in 1908, the Kent Cyclist Battalion was a territorial unit. They were mobilised in August 1914 and raised three battalions in total.

In February 1916 the 1st Battalion was sent to India while the other two battalions supplied drafts of men to other units. Although not fighting in the trenches, they saw significant action, fighting the Mashuds on the North Western Frontier in 1917, as well as the Marris and the Khetrans in Baluchistan in 1918.



Kent Cyclists 14th Platoon on parade in India, 1916.

Finally, just when they hoped to be going home, they were called to fight in the third Afghan War of 1919. Returning home long after many of their comrades, the Kent Cyclist Battalion was disbanded in 1920.

